

## CHAPTER VII: THE PRESIDIO FOREST

The U.S. Army had paid little attention to the greening of the large Presidio reservation prior to the arrival of the Division headquarters in 1878. Most of the reservation consisted of grass covered sand hills. Cattle and horses grazed the treeless hills and dales while strong winds from the ocean brought drifting sand through the land. The annual rainy season, however, produced acres of grasses and wildflowers:

The surface of the hills present at the present time a most refreshing appearance, covered with verdure and brilliant with the various tints of the wild flowers, with which they are studded in all directions. . . . And then the red, luscious strawberries in the vicinity of the Fort, peeping up from the dark green leaves, relieved by the white fragrant blossoms, giving promise of more anon.<sup>1</sup>

The early commanding officers caused some improvements in the vicinity of the main post. Ornamental trees and flower beds graced officers' row. A decorative "alameda," an oval of shrubs and flowers, marked the area near the bachelor officers' quarters. Rows of lacquered cannon balls outlined roads and paths. But not until the arrivals of Generals Irvin McDowell and John Schofield in the late 1870s and early 1880s and their staff engineer Maj. William A. Jones did a landscaping program truly develop.

General McDowell had a reputation for improving the appearances of military reservations but it has been difficult to identify correspondence on the subject of landscaping that bore his signature. His successors, however, gave him credit for expending much energy and zeal toward improving the Presidio and undertaking tree planting to a limited extent. He received credit too for encouraging the development of the city's Arguello Boulevard, that broad avenue leading from the Presidio's Arguello Gate to the northeast entrance to Golden Gate Park – two entrances that later would later be enhanced with stone ornament. His interest in landscape planning was further manifested by his becoming a San Francisco park commissioner after his retirement from the U.S. Army.<sup>2</sup>

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1. *Alta California*, May 16, 1850.

2 R.P. Hughes, January 8, 1903, to the War Department, PSF, General Correspondence 1890-1914, OQMG, RG 92, NA; Margaret Leech, *Reveille In Washington, 1860-1865* (New York: Harper and Brothers, 1941), p. 449.

It fell to one of his staff officers, Maj. William A. Jones, Engineers, who drafted a forest scheme after McDowell had retired from the Army and was living at San Francisco. Jones remained on the Division staff when Major General Schofield returned to California to succeed McDowell as Division commander, and it was during this time, 1883, that Jones wrote his now-famous plan for a Presidio forest. In his personnel records Jones described himself as being experienced in "Landscape Engineering and Forestry." Concerning the Presidio, he wrote, "The main idea is, to crown the ridges, border the boundary fences, and cover the areas of sand and marsh waste with a forest that will generally seem continuous, and thus appear immensely larger than it really is. By leaving the valleys uncovered or with a scattering fringe of trees along the streams, the contrast of height will be strengthened. He continued, "In order to make the contrast from the city seem as great as possible, and indirectly accentuate the idea of the power of Government, I have [in his plan] surrounded all the entrances with dense masses of wood."

To gather support for his concepts, Jones sent copies of his plan to members of Congress and to leading citizens of San Francisco. A typical response, perhaps, came from William Alvord, Bank of California, "every officer stationed there and every citizen of this City, should do all they can to carry out your excellent suggestion. When I meet Members of Congress I shall urge them to favor liberal annual appropriations for that purpose." U.S. Representative John Colburn, chairman of the House Military Committee, waxed purple in responding to Jones saying that the Presidio "must give you an opportunity to produce the most charming effects, which will prove to be a blessing to San Francisco and her visitors for hundreds of years after you are gone."<sup>3</sup>

Jones transferred from San Francisco without seeing the implementation of his scheme. Years later, however, when he learned of plans to improve the Presidio forest, he wrote at length and in a less imperialistic tone giving advice. He called this essay, "Suggestions in the matter of parking the U.S. military reservation of the Presidio of San Francisco:"

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3. Jones and Stokes Associates, *Presidio of San Francisco, Forest Management Plan, 1990-2010* (Sacramento 1990); Alvord, June 27, 1883, to Jones; and Colburn, July 6, 1883, to Jones, both in PSF, CCF, OQMG, RG 92, NA. Jones' plan or map has not been located. Maj. Gen. R.P. Hughes, January 8, 1903, to AG, PSF, General Correspondence 1890-1914, OQMG, RG 92, NA.

### **First Avenue (Arguello) Entrance**

Clear away an opening with curved borders inside the gate, displaying grass and flowers. Thin out the trees along the border and fill in with a good many flowering peach trees and first in front of them a fringe of snowballs and lilacs. Since the wet season is in the Spring and early Summer trees and shrubs that flower during that season should be established at first and such later bloomers as will flourish will have to be determined by experiment.

Fill in the space on right hand side of the road after entering with a dense growth of eucalyptus, so as to make the first part of the drive entering the reservation dark and somber. This will conduce to a feeling of awe which will suddenly be contrasted strongly with a magnificent view of the Presidio, with the Bay and Mountains beyond. The effect of this view will be heightened by the contrast so simply effected.

To the right of this entrance as you enter, along the reservation boundary leave the trees as they are; except to thin them out so as to develop a graceful growth of individual trees, and other trees affording color contrasts by their foliage should be introduced.

### **Central Avenue (Presidio Boulevard) Entrance**

Abandon the straight reach of road leading in at this entrance as far as its junction with the curved road on the left. Head the entrance road on a curve to the left to join this curved road, and treat the entrance, substantially as indicated for the First Avenue entrance, using for flowering trees: *Pyrus floribunds* (flowering apple), and for shrubs: *Spirea*, *Forsythia fortuneie*, and Lilacs.

Then preceding along the entrance road, cut away all the trees in front of the sharp bend so as to suddenly display the view of the Presidio and the Bay. All trees along the road between this point and the Presidio, and all trees in front of the Presidio to be removed, and the area treated with grass, wild flowers, and with scattering clumps of shrubbery at favorable points. For this shrubbery use: Lilacs, *Forsythia fortuneie*, Snowballs, *Weigela rosea*, *Spirea*, California privet

(for filling out clumps), Japan maples, Pink *Hydranges pamculata*, if they will grow. Get every variety of lupine in color that will be found and plant single colors in great masses on the ridges of the grassy slopes.

### **Eastern boundary**

Continue to supply new trees.

### **Quarry**

[Probably the quarry just inside the Lombard gate.] A mass of California poppies all over the slopes above and near the crest. Wichuviana roses and other flowering trailers along the crest of the quarry to trail down over the face of the rocks.

### **Trees on south ridge of the Presidio**

Modify this place by removing all but the handsomest eucalyptus and replace with flowering trees. Put in a great many double flowering peach, with scattering crab apples and weeping cherries.

### **In front of the Presidio**

Treat the slopes on each side of the little stream with grass. Along either side of the stream use great quantities of Calla lilies, and Japan Iris in masses showing single colors. A great lot of hardy Azaleas and Rhododendrons in two red and pink colors, one color on either side of the viaduct.

### **Road from Presidio to Fort Point**

On the Bay side of the road clear away all trees and on the other side thin out the eucalyptus and plant trees of light colored foliage, and such flowering trees as will not mind the shade.

### **In the Cemetery**

Plant clumps of weeping cherry, weeping birch, weeping willow. Thin out the trees bordering the cemetery and fill in with dogwood, *Pyrus floribunda*, and crabapples, in large quantities. On the great slopes which are displayed on the approach to Fort Point develop grass and wild flowers, lupine, and California poppies in great masses. Below the road and out upon the marsh: Calla lilies, Japan iris, German iris, and flowering flags, in large quantities.

### **Everywhere**

Thin out the eucalyptus extensively so as to give the handsomest specimens a good chance to develop and also to make room for trees of different form and shades of foliage. Introduce extensively the great white flowering dogwood of California, also Acacias (in variety) and large evergreens: Horse chestnut, English walnut, Butternut, Elms, Redwood, *Sequoia gigantea*, Oregon fir and cedar, Chestnut, Gum, *Liriodendron*, Oriental plane, Kentucky coffee tree, Oaks, Spruce, etc.

Leave the sand dune just as it is [Shown on Harts' 1907 map as northwest of Rob Hill].

### **Glades**

These are laid out among the great tree masses. Cover the openings with grass and assorted flowers. Along the borders of these openings place great masses of dogwood, *Pyrus floribunda*, double flowering peach and cherry, crab apple, and a few Japanese maples and small trees of light colored foliage.

At all sorts of favorable places where the roads lead through the dense woods, introduce masses

of color by means of flowering trees and shrubs.

## General

The kind of verdure and flowers that can be developed will depend upon whether or not water can be supplied for irrigation. I have assumed that it could not.<sup>4</sup>

The *Alta California* reporter visited the Presidio again in 1884 and again found the environment agreeable, "the Presidio grounds are finely laid out, affording excellent promenades, which are visited by many city residents. . . . From the car depot a broad well-kept avenue leads up the slight ascent to the [main post]. . . . All about the residence quarters shade trees and cultivated flowers contribute to make the place beautiful, and in every directions cleanly care is evidenced. The main roads are broad and well conditioned for driving, while between them, leading conveniently to the . . . business part . . . are ornamental foot walks, marked by inviting resting places amid flowers and shrubs. The border lines are unique enough with their long rows of half-buried cannon balls."<sup>5</sup>

The earliest recording of the mass planting of trees on the Presidio occurred during the celebration of California's first Arbor Day late in 1886. School children planted about 3,000 tree slips that mining magnate Adolph Sutro had donated. The newspapers indicated that the area planted lay on the slope southeast of the main post in the vicinity of Lovers Lane. They did not indicate the varieties of the slips.<sup>6</sup>

As the 1890s came into view, grazing cattle continued to be part of the scene – cows belonging to military families and to civilians having permits. Army horses and mules, whether artillery, cavalry, or quartermaster, grazed when practical. In 1891 a new arrangement called for a civilian to manage twenty-

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4. W.A. Jones, November 27, 1902, Exhibit D, Proceedings of a Board of Officers, Presidio of San Francisco, January 12, 1903, General Correspondence, 1890-1914, OQMG, RG 92, NA. Jones' station at this time remains unknown. Judging from the above, he probably visited the Presidio not long before writing these suggestions. He retired from the Army with the rank of brigadier general in 1905.

5. *Daily Alta California*, August 16, 1885.

6. *San Francisco Chronicle*, December 28, 1886. Large-scale tree planting occurred at the Presidio before 1886, as is evident in the 1882 photograph in this chapter. Adolph Sutro later served as San Francisco's mayor, 1894-1897. Robert E. Stewart, Jr., and M.F. Stewart, *Adolph Sutro, A Biography* (Berkeley: Howell-North, 1962).

five acres of garden "at points" not interfering with military functions. The commander hoped that the crops would supply the garrison the year round with vegetables.<sup>7</sup>

Congress finally made an appropriation for the improvement of the Presidio, including the planting of trees, in 1889. U.S. Senator Leland Stanford introduced an amendment to the appropriations bill calling for \$38,000 for roads and walks leading to the national cemetery, planting trees and shrubs, fencing, and for a roadway between Fort Mason and the Presidio. The tree contractor, L.W.H. Green, requested permission to house his laborers and horses at the abandoned Fort Point, but was refused because such would establish a bad precedent. The annual report of the Secretary of War for 1892 listed the projects that the \$38,000 had allowed. A balance of \$8,700 remained on the books. In addition a second appropriation of \$10,000 in 1891 furthered the effort. As for trees:

A contract for 50,000 trees was completed:

Building a reservoir	\$6.50.
Final payment for trees	1,375.
Cultivating young trees, fences	654.
Powder for blasting	2.
Irrigation system	228.
Insect control	3.
Pruning shears, etc.	5.

The 1891 appropriation allowed for the planting of 105,475 additional trees:

Eucalyptus	51,290
Acacia	13,433
Cypress	19,500
Pine	19,860
Bamboo	1,242
<i>Ceanothus</i>	100
<i>Washingtonia</i>	50

Of these, the eucalyptus had been raised in the Presidio's own nursery.<sup>8</sup> The Golden Gate Park and Mr.

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7. H. Harris, December 15, 1888, to Post Quartermaster, Letters Sent, PSF; Orders 321, December 13, 1890, Post Orders, 1890-1891, PSF; CO, PSF, March 20, 1891, Register of Letters Received 1891, PSF, RG 393, NA.

8. The only clue as to the location of the tree nursery was in an 1895 letter that said it was part of the old post garden in the vicinity of the footpath to the south of the post (Lovers Lane in Tennessee Hollow?). Graham, July 1895, to Depot Quartermaster, Letters Sent, PSF, RG 393, NA.

Green donated 2,393 trees. The remainder were purchased under contract. Almost 8,000 trees (pine, acacia, and cypress) replaced losses from earlier, undocumented plantings.

As for distribution, fifty native trees (*Washingtonia gigantea* or Calaveras big tree) were planted in small groups of two or three in the space southwest of the post reservoir and enclosed by the road leading from the reservoir to McDowell (later, Lincoln) Avenue (at that time a reservoir stood south of the south end of the parade ground, but the description remains unclear). Along the bluffs on the western part of the reservation, ninety-four enclosed acres supported almost 96,000 trees consisting of eucalyptus, cypress, pine, and acacia. The report further stated that 500 trees of extra size – four feet high – had been planted in conspicuous places to replace trees that had been accidentally destroyed. The bamboo was placed in the west near the tules (lower Presidio or Mountain Lake). As for the nursery it had a new stock of 30,000 eucalyptus for the next planting.

#### **Expenditures of the \$10,000**

Purchase of trees	\$1,610
Plowing and harrowing	956
Cultivating trees, 1891 and 1892	1,585
Planting 103,423 trees at 2½¢ each	2,586
Labor (cultivating young trees, building fences, digging firebreaks)	1,271
Lumber for fencing	520
Wire and stables	207
Repairing windmill	14
	<b>8,749</b>
Unexpended	1,251
Total	<b>\$10,000</b>

On November 7, 1892, the Division quartermaster, Maj. J.H. Lord, proudly pronounced that the number of trees planted on the Presidio came to 329,975. The post commander upped the figure to 350,000.<sup>9</sup>

The post commander at this time was Col. William Montrose Graham, a second generation officer and a veteran of the Civil War, "famous in the army for his devotion to the minutiae of army regulations."<sup>10</sup> In a

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9. Langdon, February 10, 1890, to Department of California, Letter Sent, PSF, RG 393, NA; *San Francisco Chronicle*. February 21, 1889; Secretary of War, *Annual Report 1892*, pp. 406-407; J.H. Lord, November 7, 1892; and Graham, November 5, 1892, to Department of California, PSF, RG 393, NA.

10. Hermann Hagedorn, *Leonard Wood, A Biography* (New York: Harper & Brothers,



long letter in December 1892 Graham fired his first volley against tree planting at the Presidio:

The reservation has 1380 acres, of which 96 acres are in the garrison proper. About 150 acres are in marsh land. About 75 acres are used by the Treasury Department. And the remainder is dry rolling ground well suited for the handling of troops. Of this about 400 acres have been planted to trees or are now being planted. These areas are protected with barbed wire fences. The space available is greatly reduced for drill.

Another evil arising from the extensive tree planting and which is only beginning to be felt, as the earlier plantings are attaining considerable size, is the dense thickets that are being formed, which makes shelters and secure hiding places for the tramps that infest the reservation.<sup>11</sup>

Several months later Graham had to explain to higher headquarters damage caused to trees. He admitted that cows had eaten the leaves off acacia trees but, he explained, the trees had not died and the leaves would grow back. As to the four eucalyptus trees that had been cut down, he had authorized the Union Telegraph Company to cut them because they interfered with the telegraph line being installed. His letter was not insolent, nor was it apologetic.<sup>12</sup>

Colonel Graham warmed to this subject early in 1894. He wrote that because of the large areas densely covered with trees and shrubs, bodies of troops, mounted or dismounted, were prevented passage. Also, dangerous characters hiding in the thickets could pounce on innocent persons then escape. He did not think any more trees should be planted and that thinning should take place. If, however, the commanding general wished to plant more trees, he would cooperate.<sup>13</sup>

No sooner had Graham penned this letter, than the depot quartermaster in San Francisco announced that he would plant trees on the "sand spit" in the southwest corner of the reservation. Trees continued to be the colonel's burden. On one occasion he had to post a mounted patrol to keep people from stealing newly planted trees. Then there was the matter of barbed wire. Twice Graham complained that this wire that protected the trees had injured government horses and that the groves hindered the proper instruction  
(..continued)

1931), 1: 115.

11. Graham, December 22, 1892, to AG, Letters Sent, PSF, RG 393, NA.

12. Department of California, August 14, and Graham, August 16, 1893, Register of Letters Received 1893, PSF, RG 393, NA.

13. Graham, February 6, 1894, to Department of California, Register of Letters Received 1893-1894, PSF, RG 393, NA.

of the cavalry. The Department of California responded by saying that the planting of trees was not inimical to the military service, but that any excess fencing would be taken up. Graham then attempted to prevent a fence being erected around the tree nursery but relented when the depot quartermaster promised not to use barbed wire.<sup>14</sup>

A new issue cropped up in the summer of 1895 when a contractor asked permission to remove earth from the area east of Mountain Lake. Graham responded with a resounding no. The Army had brought that earth over from Angel Island during General McDowell's regime and that area was essential to the military function of the post as it was needed for drill purposes.<sup>15</sup>

The Graham versus tree struggle reached a climax during the colonel's last year as the Presidio commander, 1895-1896. The *San Francisco Examiner* reported in August 1895 that the Quartermaster Department had advertised for 60,000 young Monterey pines for planting in 1896 in a forty-acre parcel along the western borders of the Presidio reservation. In November 1895 Graham asked his adjutant to investigate why earth was being removed in the vicinity of Mountain Lake. The adjutant learned that the soil was to be given to Golden Gate Park in return for trees and shrubs to be planted in the same area. (An arrangement by the Depot Quartermaster, Lt. Col. James G.C. Lee?) Graham's immediate response was to prohibit such removal there or any place else on the reserve.

The Depot Quartermaster quickly responded. He said that the Quartermaster General of the Army had authorized the planting of trees in the whole southwest portion of the Presidio reservation, embracing the "sand spit" and the ground south of that south to Lobos Creek. Graham objected strongly to additional planting. The garrison, he said, was large and would become larger. Space must be available for drill and battle exercises and the only terrain available was that on the south, the southeast, and the southwest, "It is urgently recommended that the planting of more trees be prohibited by the proper *military* authorities." Further, all fencing should be removed. The only livestock now on the reserve belonged to military families and grazing was confined to the swamp area in the lower Presidio and under the control of herd

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14. Graham, March 30, 1894, Letters Sent; Graham, March 13 and May 22, 1895, to Department of California; Depot Quartermaster, July 23, 1895, to CO, PSF, Register of Letters Received 1895, PSF, RG 393, NA.

15. Graham, July 31, 1895, to AG, Register of Letters Received 1895, RG 393, NA. Graham may have known by then that a golf course was being planned for the area.

guards.<sup>16</sup>

Apparently the Quartermaster proceeded to prepare the ground for planting. And apparently the commander of the Presidio's cavalry squadron, Lt. Col. S.B.M. Young, soon to be the first modern chief of staff of the U.S. Army, ordered or allowed his men to ride over the newly prepared ground. The Depot Quartermaster heard that the Presidio's cavalry had been drilling in the area, injuring the young trees recently planted there. Did the commanding officer direct the drilling, he asked. Graham ordered Young to investigate. Young reported that the Quartermaster was plowing the area that was used for drills and asked Graham to take steps to preserve it for military purposes. At that point, the commander of the Department of California, Brig. Gen. James W. Forsyth, entered the fray. He issued an order directing no interference with the operations of the depot quartermaster in connection with tree planting and a suspension of any cavalry drills that might interfere.<sup>17</sup>

The Secretary of War summed it all up in his annual report for 1896. He announced that the planting of trees in the southwest portion of the Presidio that had begun in December 1895, suspended in February 1896, and resumed in March had been completed. The Army had removed the trees from twenty-six acres on the "flat" and sowed it in grass. Purchased during the year: 30,101 Monterey pine, 6,800 Oregon pine, and 25,179 eucalyptus. Raised in the tree nursery from seed: 51,700 cypress and 25,179 eucalyptus. Of all these, 32,746 pine, 15,250 cypress, 1,820 eucalyptus, and 541 redwood had been set out in the southwest corner of the reservation along portions of a new road connecting McDowell Avenue (Washington and Arguello boulevards) with First Avenue (Arguello Boulevard), along the margin of Mountain Lake, near the Marine Hospital fence, and along the fence "up" Lyon Street. About 1,000 trees had been set out around the new mortar batteries on the Fort Point bluffs (Batteries Howe and Arthur Wagner). About 17,000 eucalyptus, 20,000 cypress, and 1,500 Oregon pine remained in the nursery.<sup>18</sup>

The following fiscal year, 1896-1897, saw a greatly diminished activity in tree planting. The annual

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16. *San Francisco Examiner*, August 2, 1895; J.G.C. Lee, November 6, 1895; Graham, November 11 and 17, 1895, Register of Letters Received 1895-1896, PSF, AG 393, NA. Graham's letter of November 11, contained particularly strong language.

17. J.G.C. Lee, February 4 and 5, 1896; S.B.M. Young, February 4, 1896; Department of California, February 5 and 6, 1896, all in Register of Letters Received 1896, PSF, RG 393, NA. Graham transferred from the Presidio in October 1896. He eventually became a major general of volunteers, retiring from the Army in 1898.

18. Secretary of War, *Annual Report, 1896*, p. 295.

report stated that only 1,290 pine, 20,900 cypress, 20,760 eucalyptus, and 50 acacia had been planted, and they only to fill spaces where trees had died. The cost amounted to \$803. A citizen had requested the removal of certain trees (he lived near the southern boundaries and the trees had impeded his view), and the Department commander authorized the Presidio commander to use his discretion in such cases.<sup>19</sup>

In 1896 Lt. Col. S.B.M. Young's cavalry had trampled newly planted trees at the Presidio. In 1901 Major General Young commanded the Department of California and held a much different view on the beautification of the reservation, "The period has arrived when the Presidio Reservation should be adjusted to a systematic and permanent plan of improvement." He observed that attention to the natural beauties of scenery would make the reservation more attractive to residents and visitors alike. Young recommended the appointment of a board of officers to consider such matters and the employment of a "landscape engineer." He discussed these ideas with Gifford Pinchot, the chief of the Division of Forestry of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, who offered full cooperation and the services of an engineer.<sup>20</sup>

The climate at the Presidio had changed also. The commanding officer in the early 1900s, Col. Jacob B. Rawles, Artillery Corps, took a firm approach in the preservation of the forest, "The cutting down, trimming, or in any way mutilating trees or shrubs on the Presidio Reservation is forbidden. Whenever trimming or cutting of any kind is to be done the Commanding Officer alone will order it." About this time the commanding officer of the new general hospital at the Presidio asked Rawles to plant trees around the hospital's officers' quarters.<sup>21</sup>

Forester Pinchot made good on his promise to send an expert to the Presidio in 1902. William L. Hall, the chief of the Division of Forest Extension, made a thorough study of the reserve that fall and prepared a "Plan for the Improvement and Extension of the Forest."

Originally the reservation had a covering of grass, he wrote, and that was lacking in the southern portion

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19. Secretary of War, *Annual Report 1897*, p. 367; Department of California, December 22, 1897, to CO, PSF, Register of Letters Received 1897-1898, PSF, RG 393, NA.

20. S.B.M. Young, December 31, 1901, to AG, General Correspondence 1890-1914, OQMG, RG 92, NA.

21. General Orders, February 5, 1902, Letters Received 1901, Fort W. Scott, OCE, RG 77, NA; CO, General Hospital, October 28, 1901, to CO, PSF, Register of Letters Received, 1902-1906, RG 393, NA.

where sand dunes approached from the seashore. Trees now covered 420 acres and were densely crowded. The entire stand required thinning immediately. Hall divided the forest into six areas for discussion:

### **Description of the Woodlands by Compartments<sup>22</sup>**

#### **Compartment I**

This tract leads south of Avenue B (Kobbe Avenue), west of Avenue A (Park Boulevard), and northeast of McDowell Avenue (Washington Boulevard), including the triangle at the west end of Avenue B (Kobbe). This compartment is entirely wooded with the exception of a mortar battery (McKinnon-Stotsenberg), a reservoir toward the center (1469), and the western slope of a high hill (Rob) at the extreme western end of the compartment. Blue gum, *Eucalyptus globulus*, occupies the central and principal part. All around the margin a strip of Monterey Cypress, *Cupressus maorocarpa*, mixed with Monterey Pine, *Pinus radiata*. Occasionally, blocks of acacia have been introduced in the cypress and pine.

The Blue Gum was planted in groups of five, the groups being eighteen to twenty feet apart. Growth has been excellent. Overcrowded and needs thinning. Recommendation – reduce to two to a group. Those removed must be grubbed out, roots and all. Where rows of cypress occur amongst the gums all the cypress should be removed except for an occasional tree. And where one cypress remains, the gums within one rod should be removed.

The pine and cypress around the borders usually stand in alternate rows about five feet apart. Densely crowded. Recommend they be reduced to one quarter of the number. They do not need to be grubbed. The remaining trees should stand ten to fifteen feet apart and pruned to a uniform height of four feet. Wherever acacia rows occur here they should be entirely removed – acacia not adapted to such situations. The trees in the rows

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22. The following, while not a precise quotation, retains Hall's spelling, capitalization, and the present tense.

next to the road should not be farther apart than ten feet nor closer than eight.

All acacias standing in blocks or clumps should remain without severe thinning or pruning. Whenever one dies or breaks it should be replaced with California Live Oak, *Pittosporum undulatum*, or *Pittosporum tennifolium*.

The only planting recommended for this compartment is at the extreme western end around the old quarry [on Rob Hill] near McDowell Avenue [Washington]. The rough sides of the quarry should first be smoothed and then planted with clumps of Live Oak and *Tamarix gallica*, the purpose being to screen from the road the rough edges of the quarry. Probably fifty Live Oaks and fifty Tamarix will be needed.

## **Compartment II**

Immediately north of I and enclosed by McDowell Avenue [Lincoln] and Avenue B [Kobbe]. 138 acres. It slopes eastward.

Less than half is wooded, timber being confined to a wide belt bordering Avenue B which forms the southern boundary. The timber is the same as in I, Blue Gum predominating. Needs treatment the same as in I.

All the north part is destitute of trees and is occasionally used as a drill ground by the light artillery. Some soil has been removed for use elsewhere. Some if it should be planted in trees.

1. The absence of trees planted exposes from McDowell Avenue [Lincoln] and for several miles eastward one of the shore batteries of the Winfield Scott Fire Command. Such should not be the case.

2. The slope of this tract, especially on the east side, has started violent erosion in several places.

Recommend four blocks of timber:

Block 1. Beginning at the southeast corner of the mortar battery [Howe – Wagner] it extends eastward to the road and northward along McDowell [Lincoln] to its junction with the road from old Fort Winfield Scott [Long Avenue]. Its average width is 300 feet and the area 14.3 acres. Its purpose is to prevent erosion. Should be planted in Red Gum (*Eucalyptus viminalis*), placing the trees in groups of three, the groups fifteen feet apart. The trees in a group should be planted in a triangle three feet apart. Number of trees required – 8,279. A small group of *Pittosporum undulatum* (1/8 acre) should be planted at the point where McDowell Avenue [Lincoln Boulevard] makes a sharp bend northward – about 70 plants. The ground should not be plowed. Holes for trees should be two feet across and 1½ feet deep, dug in early winter and left open until rain when trees should be planted.

Block 2. Just across McDowell Avenue [Lincoln Boulevard] from Block 1 and extends from the footpath to the junction with the road to old Fort Scott. The 3.2 acres contain the bluff facing the Bay. The ground is stony. California Live Oak here. Plant in holes sixteen feet apart. About 500 trees.

Block 3. On the west and north sides of McDowell Avenue [Lincoln Boulevard]. 12.4 acres. Purpose, to hide a large battery from view. This block should be Monterey Pine and Monterey Cypress in equal mixture. Trees eight feet apart each way and in rows following the contours of the road. The rows of pine should alternate with the rows of cypress. Trees now standing should remain. Land should first be plowed. 4,200 trees each of pine and cypress.

Block 4. Triangular portion forming a northward projection from the west end of the present timber belt. It extends across the proposed road. 8.6 acres. Soil is dry and hard. Monterey Pine and Monterey Cypress mixed as in 3, above. 2,924 trees of each kind.

Hall added a Block 5 to Compartment II.

Block 5. A mortar battery here [Howe–Wagner] has been surrounded by a single row of cypress, outside of which is a palisade fence. The fence should be removed and additional planting added. Monterey Cypress only. Trees eight feet apart each way. One acre. 680 trees.

On the embankment fronting the 10-inch battery [Miller] there should be planted near the base a dense row of *Pittosporum tenuifolium* and eight feet above this a dense row of *Tamarix gallica*, to completely cover the face [of the covered way?]. 50 plants of each.

### **Compartment III**

The portion of land in the southwest part of the reservation. It is now planted to timber and also the portions which should be planted for the protection of the soil. The present stand is mostly Monterey Pine but a few years old and still thin; but it is thick enough. This area is very sandy. Plant the open spaces.

Block 6. On the northeast side of Compartment III between the growth and McDowell Avenue [Washington]. Irregular in shape. From a point in its south end it widens to over 600 feet toward the north. 16.4 acres. Plant entirely in Maritime Pine, *Pinus maritima*, ten feet apart, not in rows but in holes dug with a spade. Plant in winter. If *Pinus maritima* is hard to obtain, use *Pinus halapensis*. 7,130 trees.

Block 7. Plant a block of timber on the steep western slope just west and north of the office of the Fort Winfield Scott Fire Command. [structure not identified; block 7 lay west of Lincoln at its junction with Kobbe]. This slope is very steep and with huge gullies. Some of the gullies are directly in front of a large battery [Crosby]. Only the hardiest of trees should be planted. Shore Pine, *Pinus contorta*, eight feet apart. Ten acres. 6,800 trees.

### **Compartment IV**

Bounded by McDowell [Washington and Arguello], Avenue A [Park] on the west, the U.S. Marine Hospital on the southwest, and the City of San Francisco on the south. It



includes a belt of trees from 200 to 400 feet wide along McDowell, the golf links, and a sloping unused portion between the golf links and the Marine Hospital grounds.

The timber belt along McDowell is composed principally of cypress, pine, and gum trees. In places the cypress and pine are very thick – four feet by four feet. Three quarters of the trees should be moved at once. The remainder should be pruned to a height of four feet. The gum is planted in groups of five with rows about one rod apart. It won't require thinning for about three years. In a few places the gums stand in rows four feet apart with the trees four feet apart in the rows. Alternate rows and alternate trees should be taken out.

For a distance toward the south end of this group, the gum has been planted on the exposed southwest edge of the belt. It is not adapted to such exposure and the trees have suffered. A few rows of cypress should be planted bordering on the southwest. The cypress should not be straight lines and should vary as much as the golf ground permits.

Block 8. A narrow belt of cypress [location not identified]. Trees should be eight feet each way. 1.4 acres. 950 trees.

Block 9. A small block of 0.8 acres on the south side of McDowell (Washington) at the north end of the timber belt. Its purpose is to break up the view of the long straight timber line. Monterey pine eight feet by eight feet here. 540 trees required.

Block 10. The unused ground occupying the slope between the golf links and the Marine Hospital reservation, 17 acres. It slopes precipitously toward the southwest and there is much erosion. It has burned over in summers for weed control. This summer the fire escaped and killed a number of valuable young pines on adjacent land. Purpose, to protect Mountain Lake and to keep the soil from eroding. The slope should be a solid block of timber.

Cypress, pine, and gum needed. The outer ten rows should be Monterey Pine and Monterey cypress, alternating rows. Trees eight feet by eight feet each way. All the

interior of the block should be Red Gum, *Eucalyptus viminalis*, three trees in a group, groups sixteen feet apart. 4,080 trees each of pine and cypress and 3,700 trees of Red Gum.

### **Compartment V**

It includes the large triangle formed by McDowell and the straight walk running northwest from the cemetery, all of the cemetery, and the belt of timber lying west of the post buildings and on the north side of McDowell Avenue where it passes the cemetery [on today's maps, roughly the area bordered by the brick barracks on the east, highway 101 on the north, highway 1 on the west, and a line from structure 375 to structure 1300 on the south].

The area north of McDowell [Lincoln] is planted to cypress, pine, gum, and acacia, with cypress predominant. The cypress are greatly crowded and should be thinned to ten feet apart and the remaining trees pruned to four feet. This will reduce the stand by three quarters. The gum should be thinned within the next two years. The acacia should not be thinned. Where it dies it should be replaced with California Live Oak, *Quercus agrifolia*, *Pittosporum tenuifolium*, and *Pittosporum undulatum*.

The triangle bounded by McDowell [Lincoln] and the straight walk [highway 101] is principally young growth of pine and cypress. It does not need thinning yet. There is a rank growth of grass – a fire danger. Soil is sandy. A few Monterey Pine should be planted in vacant places along McDowell.

The cemetery tract: Principally Blue Gum planted in groups of five, the groups in straight rows about one rod apart. It will need thinning in two-three years. On the north side of the new addition to the cemetery the gum trees are too thick. Thin at once to twenty feet between trees.

On the borders of this tract, especially along Avenue A [Park] and McDowell [Lincoln] on the south side there is a fringe of pine and cypress. It needs immediate thinning, ten or twelve feet between trees. The rows of cypress next to the road, however, should not

be thinned to more than eight feet between trees.

The groups of acacia in the southeast of the compartment should not be thinned. When they die, replace with California Live Oak.

Two small groups of trees should be planted in the southeast part of this compartment to break up the too extensive view over the unsightly slope.

Block 11. It is situated in the bend of McDowell [Lincoln] and is designed to give variety to the view toward the post. Area, 0.9 acres. There should be planted a mixture of Australian Blackwood, *Acacia melanoxylon*, Port Orford Cedar, Lawson Cypress, *Chamaecyparis lawsoniana*, and Incense Cedar, *Libocedrus decurrens*. Trees should be mixed promiscuously about ten feet apart. About 130 each.

Block 12. To be an addition to the belt of trees along the road from the post to the First Avenue entrance [Arguella]. 3.4 acres. Located on the ground that slopes to the north and west. Plant an even mixture of California Live Oak, *Quercus agrifolia*, and English oak, *Q. pedunculata*. Set in holes dug with a spade, sixteen feet apart. 270 trees of each.

Leaving the junction of Avenues A and B [Kobbe and Park] and going east along A [Park] to a point 300 feet distant where it bends sharply south, one is impressed with the fine view that might be obtained north over the Bay were it not for the trees beside the road. These should be cut.

## **Compartment VI**

It occupies the southeast part of the reservation and includes all of the area east of the road from the post to First Avenue gate [Arguella] and all south of the Union Street cable line and the road from the end of the cable line to the hospital buildings [Lombard]. It contains a number of belts and blocks of timber and a small number of open fields, some of which are campgrounds [Spanish-American War].

The belt of timber along the south border of the reserve, composed principally of

Eucalyptus, cypress, Albizzia, and Acacia is of great importance in covering very sandy land. The numerous footpaths should be eliminated.

Eucalyptus need not be thinned for three or four years. The Cypress was planted in groups of five. This was unsuccessful. The survivors should be thinned at once.

Where Albizzia and Acacia have done poorly replace with *Pittosporum undulatum*.

At the Central Avenue entrance [Presidio], the bordering rows of cypress stand four feet apart. They should not be thinned but should be kept sheared on the side to give a hedge-like appearance.

Between the Central Avenue road and the walk [Lovers Lane] the timber is largely Eucalyptus planted in groups of five. No thinning is needed for three years.

The east side of Central Avenue road [Presidio] should be kept densely wooded. Where there are thin areas, plant *Pinus halepensis*. A recent fire did great damage to 1½ acres in this belt. Plant the denuded area with *Pinus halepensis* at once.

In the extreme southeast corner is a small space that is not planted in trees. It should be kept open on account of the fine view of the reserve that is afforded from the street.

On the triangle between the officers' quarters and the [general] hospital where stands the oldest timber on the reserve, all the cypress should be pruned to six feet high and all pine and inferior cypress removed. A good thinning will be required in two to three years. At that time, remove half of both.

Trees bordering the road south of the officers' quarters [Barnard] are too thick. Thin them.

Four additional blocks of timber should be planted in Compartment VI to cover unused slopes to prevent erosion.

Block 13. This small area contains 0.7 acres. It is at the south end of the officers' quarters. It improves the appearance of that area. Plant an irregular mixture of Australian Blackwood, *Acacia melanoxylon*, and Deodar, *Cedrus deodara*, in holes twelve feet apart, 150 trees of each.

Block 14. This is an irregular area of 6.5 acres situated on the bottom and lower slope of one of the ravines that extends into the open space. The purpose of trees here is to stop the washing of the soil. Plant a pure stand of Monterey Pine except the outer two rows which should be *Pittosporum tenuifolium* – 4,500 trees (4,000 pine and 500 Pittosporum).

Block 15. It is an addition to the northwest corner of the present south side belt. Purpose, to cover an ugly slope and to stop erosion. Its north line should be kept irregular and include the old reservoir site [this **may** have been a dammed pond immediately south of El Polin spring]. Contains 6.6 acres. Plant a pure stand of Red Gum, *Eucalyptus viminalis*. Set in groups of three, groups 16½ feet apart. Trees in a group to be three feet apart and plant in a triangle. 2,300 trees. On the north side plant two rows of Monterey Cypress trees, eight feet apart – 300 trees.

Block 16. Open ground containing 5.5 acres. It is near the north end of the tract that lies between the walk and road leading to the Central Avenue gate. If this block is not needed for camps or buildings it should be planted. First, plow and cultivate the hard ground. Plant Monterey cypress and Monterey Pine with groups of *Pittosporum tenuifolium* and Lawson Cypress along the border of the walk – 1,900 each of pine and cypress, 25 each of Pittosporum and Lawson.<sup>23</sup>

Maj. Gen. Robert P. Hughes succeeded General Young as commander of the Department of California in 1902, in time for the Hall report. He agreed that tree planting had been done in the past with poor judgement and without an overall plan. He listed the improvements now needed: planting for soil erosion,

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23. Hall, November 26, 1902, to B.H. Randolph, General Correspondence, 1890-1914, PSF, OQMG, RG 92, NA.

windbreaks, and the screening of new batteries. He also thought it time to pay attention to tree culture at Fort Mason, Yerba Buena Island, Angel Island, Fort Miley, and Lime Point. The superintendent of San Francisco's parks, John McLaren, had already agreed to supervise the planting of 200,000 trees at Lime Point if an appropriation came through. Hughes, however, did not want the several posts each to be chasing after landscape funds. He thought it better to have the moneys funneled through the Department and that an overall plan be developed.<sup>24</sup>

The Presidio Board of Officers for improving the reservation met several times in 1903. While its list of work accomplished and recommendations dealt largely with roads, some issues dealt with forestation. Superintendent McLaren had donated the services of B.K. Beattie, an experienced woodsman and forester, to begin the thinning. A new nursery had been established where 8,000 young trees thrived. Bids had been invited for the removal of fallen timber. The board recommended additional funds for continued thinning and trimming, and for the construction of a hot house for raising plants from seed. During the year the post quartermaster signed an agreement with F. Ludemann to provide \$1,200 worth of trees:

5,000 *Eucalyptus viminalis* (manna gum) at \$25 per thousand  
2,900 *Pinus insignis* (radiata) at \$125 per thousand  
2,900 *Pinus contorta* (beach pine) at \$125 per thousand  
2,500 *Pinus maritima* (maritime pine) at \$125 per thousand  
100 *Cupressus macrocarpa* (Monterey cypress) at \$10 per hundred  
100 *Acacia latifolia* (broadleaf acacia) at \$5 per hundred  
100 *Acacia lophanta* at \$4 per hundred  
100 *Acacia melanosylan* at \$4 per hundred  
100 *Leptospermum laerigatum* (Australian tea tree) at \$7.50 per hundred<sup>25</sup>

The year 1904 saw continuing forestry work. At its annual meeting the Board of Officers repeated all of its 1903 recommendations, noting the work that had been accomplished. New ideas called for enlarging the tree nursery (in Tennessee Hollow then or later), planting trees around Mountain Lake to protect the water supply, employ a permanent force of four foresters, and pay careful attention to the Hall report and Colonel Jones' letter, both of 1902. It also recommended removal of a row of cypress along the road in front of the national cemetery as the trees made the road damp and muddy.

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24. R.P. Hughes, January 8, 1903, to AG, General Correspondence 1890-1914, OQMG, RG 92, NA.

25. Report of a Board of Officers, Fiscal year 1903, July 25, 1903, Letters Sent, PSF, RG 393, NA; Articles of Agreement, D.S. Stanley and F. Ludemann, June 2, 1903, General Correspondence 1890-1914, PSF, OQMG, RG 92, NA.

During the year the Presidio received appropriations amounting to at least \$21,300 for beautification. Laborers dug holes for trees in Hall's blocks 1, 3, 4, 5, and planted trees in blocks 1, 3, 6, 7, and 10. Despite Hall's warning on acacias, the post commander ordered two rows of them planted along the road to the Presidio wharf. A work force of twenty-two laborers continued the task of thinning and trimming.<sup>26</sup>

Col. Charles Morris, Artillery Corps, commanding the Presidio in 1905, headed a letter "President, Forestry Board," which presumably proclaimed a new title for the Board of Officers. The 1906 earthquake resulted in a suspension of further beautification. Not until that autumn did the Department of California return to the subject, emphasizing the planting of trees at military posts in the Bay Area other than at the Presidio. Part of this interest may have had its origins in a letter a San Francisco citizen, C.H. Rudolph, wrote saying that the people of that city desired to have trees planted on the islands in the bay; he asked if the War Department had any objections. The letter reached Washington where the Chief of Engineers replied that he had no objections providing the Army selected the specific sites. Even then, location was not of supreme importance to the defensive works, because the trees could be removed in case of emergency.<sup>27</sup>

When queried, Colonel Morris said that the Presidio tree nursery could supply about 3,000 young trees and that any quantity could be taken from the wooded areas as they were full of small trees springing up. He warned that planting should not be undertaken until the rainy season started in November. He added that the Presidio's gardener had stressed the need for experienced supervision; planting trees in sandy ground required skill. General Funston upped the figure as to the Presidio's contribution, saying that its nurseries could supply as many as 25,000 trees, adding, "The hundreds of acres of splendid forest on the reservation of the Presidio . . . which 25 years ago were barren sand hills, show what can be accomplished in this line by intelligent effort."<sup>28</sup>

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26. Morris, December 31, 1903, January 21 and 30 and March 14, 1904, to Department of California, Letters Sent, PSF, RG 393; W. Patten, January 31, 1905, to QMG, PSF, General Correspondence 1890-1914, OQMG, RG 92, NA. The Harts map of 1907 did not show trees leading to the wharf.

27. The department commander, Brig. Gen. Frederick Funston, said he was "thoroughly sympathetic" to the project but he doubted trees could be grown on Alcatraz. A second citizen letter from the same address bore the signature of P.H. Ruddock.

28. Morris, September 27 and November 1, 1905, and C.H. Rudolph, September 24, 1905, Register of Letters Received, 1905, RG 393, NA; P.H. Ruddock, September 28, 1905, to AG; Funston, November 10 and 11, 1905, to Pacific Division, General Correspondence 1890-1914, OQMG, RG 92, NA.

The Hall and Jones documents had been around for more than three years when U.S. Congressman Julius Kahn introduced a bill calling for an appropriation for the improvement of the Presidio grounds. Colonel Morris, when asked to remark on the bill, disclosed that many of Hall's recommendations had yet to be implemented. Much thinning remained to be done in order for healthy trees to grow. Many thousands of young trees had yet to be planted where Hall had directed, especially in the vicinity of Mountain Lake and to screen the fortifications.<sup>29</sup> Even as the Congress considered military appropriations that year, an army engineer officer, Maj. William W. Harts, compiled the most important document concerning the development of the Presidio of San Francisco yet to be penned. Harts completed this work by January 1907, calling it the "Report Upon the Expansion and Development of the Presidio of San Francisco, California." Accompanying it were fourteen plates, "Plans for the Re-Arrangement and Development of the U.S. Military Reservation."<sup>30</sup>

Harts' scheme envisioned a greatly enlarged garrison – twenty companies of coast artillery, two regiments of infantry, three batteries of light artillery, a regiment of cavalry, a battalion of engineers, and the general hospital. Such a great size would result in the removal of some trees. It is apparent that he studied the earlier reports of Hall and Jones as well as the views of the eminent architect D. H. Burnham and Superintendent McLaren at Golden Gate Park. Harts wrote that the Presidio was "a site of great beauty and is probably excelled by no other military post in the world in the magnificence of its location and its commanding position," adding, "Its great natural beauty is seldom appreciated."

Harts credited General McDowell for originating a forestry plan. Succeeding commanders had added trees until in 1907 trees covered a third of the reservation – mostly eucalyptus, spruce (cypress?), and pine. Ridges divided the Presidio into three parts. One ridge running nearly north and south separated the coast artillery batteries from the barracks and quarters of the main post. Running east and west another ridge separated the first two areas from a portion containing the golf course, Marine Hospital, and target ranges.<sup>31</sup>

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29. Morris, January 22, 1906, to Department of California, Register of Letters Received 1905-1906, PSF, RG 393, NA.

30. W.H. Harts, "Report," General Correspondence 1890-1914, OQMG, RG 92, NA. Of the fourteen plates, Plate 1, that showed the "present condition" of the Presidio is the most pertinent to this report.

31. When naming the "golf links," Harts wrote, "the portion formerly used as golf



He noted that the forest still required thinning. The coastal batteries required screens of cypress, acacia, oak, and pine to hide them from the reservation proper. The bluffs under the batteries needed protection with shore and maritime pine. Live oak could replace acacia everywhere where the latter had died. Madrono and manzanita should border roadways and walks along with magnolia and English and cork elms. Hedges of California privet and box would provide back door screens. At various places Harts would plant camphor trees, Kentucky pepper trees, pittosporum, and black acacia for effect. He did not renew the idea of bamboo for the lower Presidio, rather, Normandy poplars would serve best in that location. Echoing Jones' concepts, Harts said that at each entrance to the reserve there should be clusters of large trees bordered with low, flowering shrubs, "as will give the visitor the impression of entering an enclosure as he passes in." He observed, "this effect has been secured at many places at Golden Gate Park and the effect there may be studied with advantage." Probably influenced by Jones' 1902 letter, Harts recommended the planting of glades in lupine and California poppy. Rose bushes would add to the beauty in the main post area, in sunken gardens along the creek beds, and along winding paths. Harts recommended converting the old quarry near Lombard Street into an open-air theater for athletic events.<sup>32</sup>

Elements from Harts' report soon were adopted by the Army. The most significant of these, the establishment of the independent Fort Winfield Scott coast artillery post, occurred in 1912. While this event did not have a major impact on the Presidio forest, the landscaping of the garrison area contributed to the reservation's beauty. Its first commanding officer published an order in 1912 that set the standards, saying that with the post's magnificent location overlooking the Bay and the Golden Gate, with a landscape diversified with trees, ravines, and cliffs, and with a soil and climate capable of growing in winter as well as summer all kinds of plants and flowers, there was no reason why the post should not be made one of the most attractive places in the world.

A board of officers had already made specific recommendations for the post. While many of its concerns dealt with lawns, flowers, and a parade ground (not grassed), trees were not ignored. The board recommended planting the area north of the parade ground (the area later occupied by a theater and a

(..continued)

links," suggesting that the course was in some sort of abeyance.

32. Harts, "Report," pp. 3-4, 9, 74-79.

chapel) planted in acacia and other low-growing trees and shrubs to aid against erosion – but not so as to obstruct the view nor to interfere with its use as a drill ground. The officers thought that a line of eucalyptus trees should be planted along the road (today's Lincoln Boulevard) in that area to serve as a windbreak. The board also recommended a thinning of the trees in front of the officers' quarters on Kobbe Avenue to provide a view of San Francisco Bay.<sup>33</sup>

That same year planning for an international exposition at San Francisco stimulated the Army into an awareness of the appearance of the bay posts. Secretary of War Henry L. Stimson visited San Francisco in September. Afterwards, the commanding general, Arthur Murray, announced that Stimson had authorized general improvements. Fort Mason would become as beautiful as Golden Gate Park. The Presidio would undertake to "park" its roads like boulevards. Two gangs of military prisoners from Alcatraz would further develop the landscape and the roads. And a board of officers would take up the cause by recommending the removal of certain "old" buildings.

The U.S. Congress, however, failed to authorize an appropriation of \$1.6 million for these undertakings. A frustrated General Murray said that he had visited a majority of the military posts in the United States and that the Presidio was in the worst condition of any of them by far. The Army's chief of staff, Leonard Wood, who had lived at the Presidio as assistant post surgeon in the early 1890s, told Murray that back then the Presidio was one of the most beautiful places he had ever seen. He could not believe how run down it had become. Even this ammunition, however, had little influence on the Congress.<sup>34</sup>

The Presidio and Fort Winfield Scott continued to expand their missions as infantry, coast artillery, and headquarters posts into the 1920s and on to World War II. The forest matured. As late as 1932 the U.S. Forest Service marked over 3,000 trees that needed to be removed due to overcrowding. The Army let a contract to the Associated Charities of San Francisco to do this thinning. Memorial trees dotted the landscape here and there. New buildings, such as the Presidio's 1939 theater, received extensive landscaping. After World War II improvements continued. The military newspaper *Star Presidian* contained an article in 1964 that described landscape activities underway: removal of overgrown

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33. General Orders 8, July 19, 1912, General Orders 1912-1913, Fort Winfield Scott, RG 393, NA; Proceedings of a Board of Officers, Fort Winfield Scott, General Correspondence 1890-1914, OQMG, RG 92, NA.

34. *San Francisco Call*, September 25, 1912; Arthur Murray, April 15, 1913, to AG, General Correspondence 1890-1914, OQMG, RG 92, NA.

shrubby, tree pruning, removal of hazardous trees, automatic irrigation systems, and a general landscape program. The article said that Messers Jack Baumgartner served as head gardener, Henry Beaman as the assistant, and George L. Hart, the management agronomist. In 1970, one hundred years after the citizens of San Francisco attempted to turn the Presidio into a park, neighboring citizens became upset when the Army cut down some 340 trees to make way for new construction. The Army responded by saying it had planted 3,000 replacements. Further, San Francisco's Mayor Joseph Alioto and Lt. Gen. Stanley Larsen, Sixth U.S. Army, reached an agreement on keeping the Presidio green. In 1972 the Boy Scouts of America contributed to the Presidio's beauty by planting 1,200 coastal redwoods. Unfortunately, they died. The undaunted scouts returned to plant 250 Giant Sequoia.<sup>35</sup>

More recently, the Army contracted for a management plan for the Presidio Forest. This plan called for thinning, regeneration cutting, and new planting. Snags would be left to attract wildlife. While such new species as native oak could be planted, rare and endangered species would remain. Still, some new stands were required to reduce soil erosion and to screen new housing. This plan recorded the existing planting as being:

157 acres of eucalyptus  
127 acres of Monterey cypress  
32 acres of Monterey pine  
and minor acreage of redwood, willow, and oak

Endangered species included *Arctostaphylos hookeri* spp *ravenii*, *Clarkia franciscana*, and *Plagiobothrys diffusus* (although this last may already have been lost). Rare species noted were *Lessingia germanorum*, *Grindella maritima*, *Hesperolinum congestum*, and *Orthocarpus floribundus*. More recently the National Park Service contracted for a forest management plan for future years.<sup>36</sup>

And the history of the Presidio forest continues. In 1989 the *San Francisco Chronicle* reported that a citizen, Lorenzo Murphy, became upset when some of his neighbors near the reservation had paid for

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35. *Star Presidian*, July 2, 1964; C.L. Willard, September 12, 1932, to QMG, PSF, General Correspondence Geographical File 1922-1935, OQMG, RG 92, NA; F.D. Jones, May 22, 1939, PSF, General Correspondence 1927-1939, OCE, RG 77, NA; *San Francisco Examiner*, November 18, 1870; U.S. Army, *Ecology Trail*, p. 14.

36. Joe R. McBride, *Forest Management Plan for the Presidio and East Fort Baker* (1984); Jones and Stokes Associates, *Presidio of San Francisco, Forest Management Plan, 1990-2010* (Sacramento 1990).

some Presidio trees to be cut in order to improve their views. Protests arose on all sides. After reviewing the situation, the post commander announced that an environmental assessment would be required before any trees could be cut. The Army, however, did not have the funds for such.<sup>37</sup>

When the U.S. Army first occupied the Presidio of San Francisco in 1847, the military reservation consisted mostly of sandy hills and dales. While grasses and wild flowers flourished during the rainy seasons, drifting sand remained omnipresent. When the Sixth U.S. Army marched out the Lombard Street gate for the last time 148 years later, in 1995, it left behind a mature forest that enhanced the beauty and the landscape of the ancient army post. This successful accomplishment was due to such men as Maj. Gen. Irvin McDowell, Maj. William Jones, Maj. William Harts, William Hall of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, John McLaren from the City of San Francisco, and countless others. Their foresight and effort, in addition to the magnificent setting, provided the Army, the community, and the nation with one of the most beautiful and historic landscapes to be found.

Meanwhile, the post commander resumed control of the entire Presidio when division headquarters returned to San Francisco in 1887.

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37. *San Francisco Chronicle*, July 14, 1989.